

AN ASTERIX
ADVENTURE

Asterix

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THE GLADIATOR



DARGAUD

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ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR

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TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE





The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...



a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...

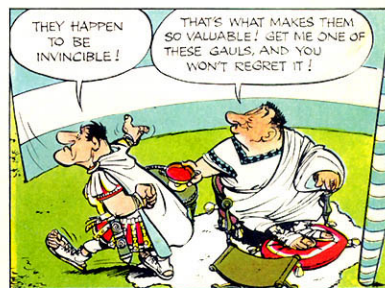
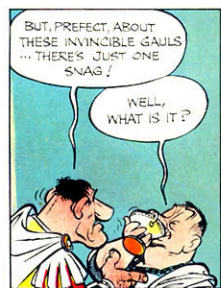
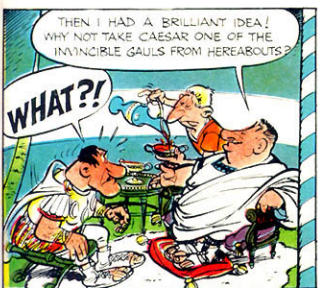
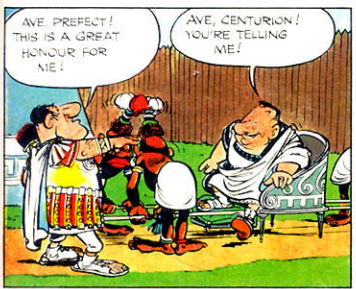


Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

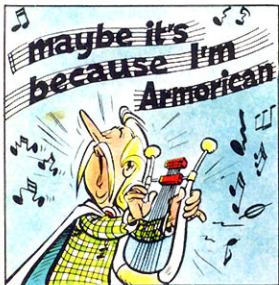
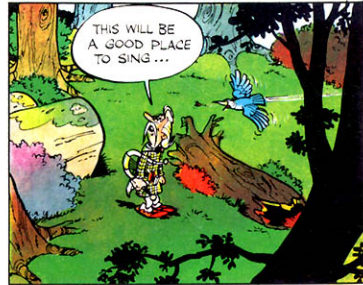
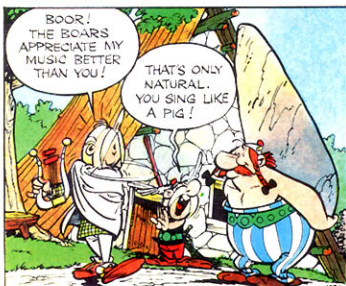
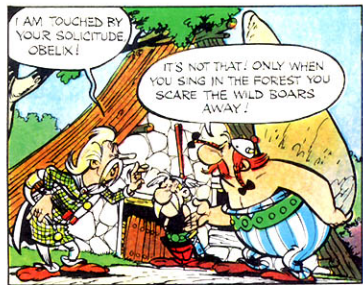


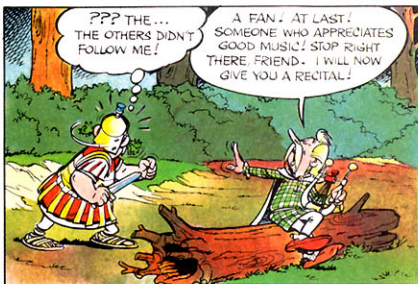
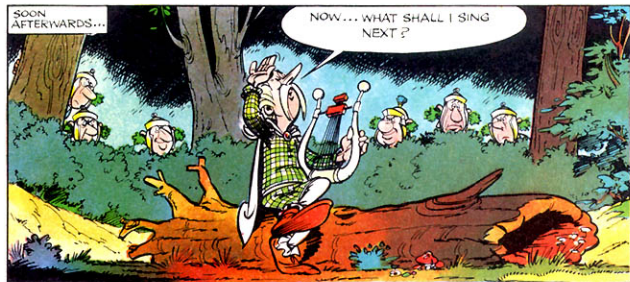
Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...

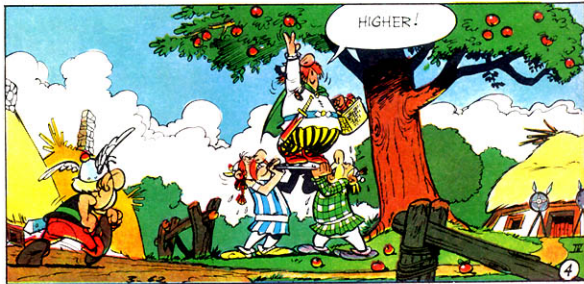
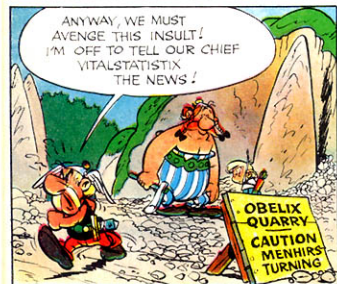
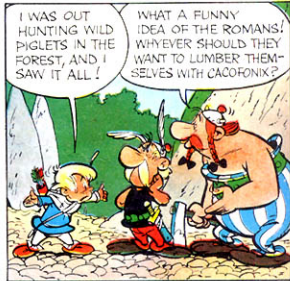
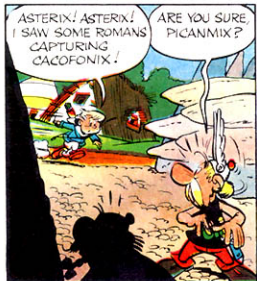
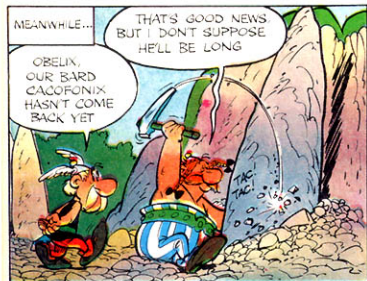
THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM IS IN A FERMET. THE PREFECT OF GAUL, JODUS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMISURPLUS. THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN...

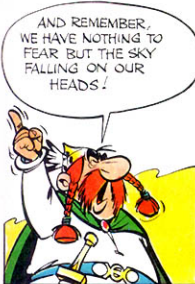
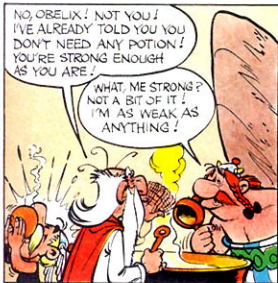
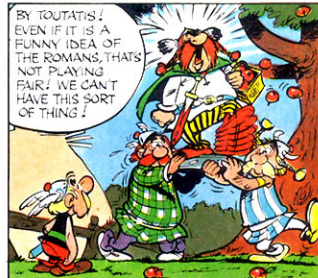
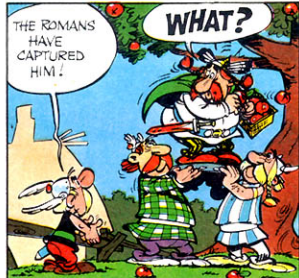


SCANNED BY SOLOMONGRUNDIDFR - E PLURIBUS HACSATI!!!









THIS IS THE FIRST TIME CACOFONIX HAS EVER GIVEN US ANY ENTERTAINMENT!

I SAY ALEXIS! HOW ABOUT A BET? THE ONE WHO KNOCKS OUT MOST LEGIONARIES WINS, AND WE HAVE TO COLLECT THEIR HELMETS AS PROOF!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AT COMPENDIUM...

PUT YOUR HELMETS ON!!!

THE GAU... GAULS! SOUND THE ALARM!

HELP! THEY'RE COMING!

AND INSIDE THE CAMP WE OBSERVE THE IMPRESSIVE SPECTACLE OF LEGIONARIES MANOEUVRING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMOUS PRECISION OF THE ROMAN ARMY...

COHORTS INTO THREE LINES... FORM!

SOUND THE HORNS, TRUMPETS AND BUCINAS!

PILUM AT THE READY!

MANOEUVRE, BY JUPITER!!!

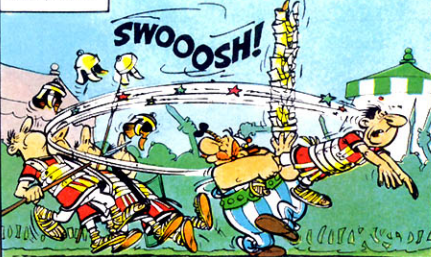
WHOOOOOSH!

WE CAN'T! THE GAULS ARE IN THE WAY!

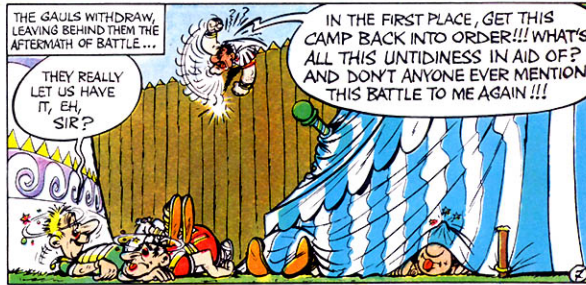
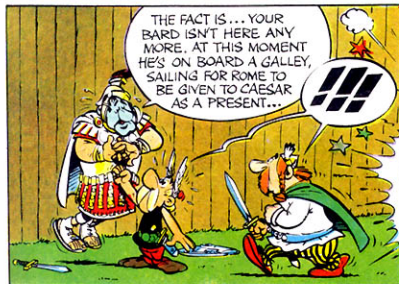
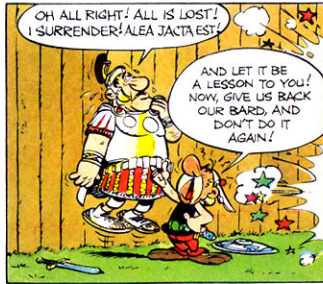
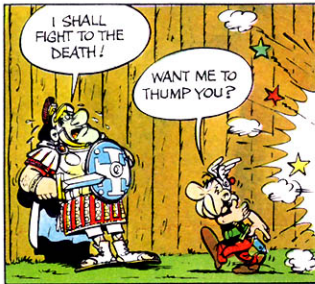
THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



BUT SHARP...



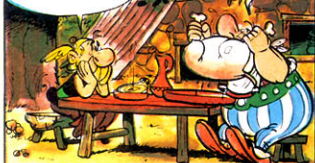
I CAN'T FIND CACOFONIX ANYWHERE... AH, THERE'S THE ROMAN COMMANDER!



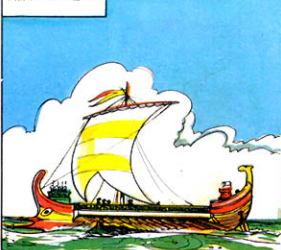
LATER IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

HE WAS SO NICE!
SCRUNCH! SO WELL
BROUGHT UP! NEVER
SANG WITH HIS MOUTH
FULL! SCRUNCH! PITY HE
DIDN'T EAT MUCH...
SCRUNCH!

POOR
CALOPONIX,
PRISONER ON BOARD
A ROMAN
GALLEY!



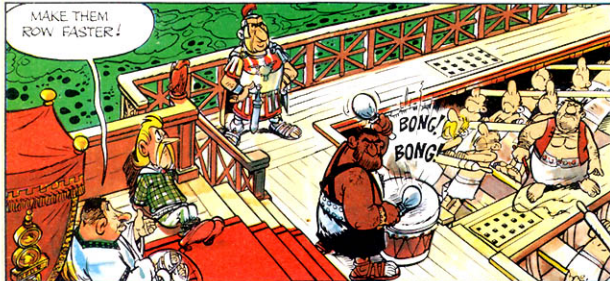
MEANWHILE...



I CAN'T WAIT
TO GIVE YOU TO
CAESAR!

YOUR CAESAR
DOESN'T DESERVE
ME, ROMAN!

MAKE THEM
ROW FASTER!



BONG!
BONG!

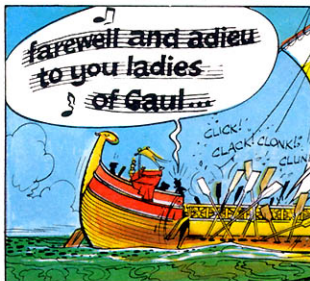


BONG!
BONG!
CRACK!
CRACK!

STOP HAVING THOSE
UNHAPPY SOULS WHIPPED
ROMAN! LOOSEN SOME
OF MY BONDS! I WILL
SING THEM A SONG TO
LIVEN THEM
UP!

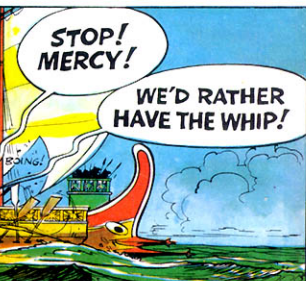


farewell and adieu
to you
fair Celtic
ladies...



farewell and adieu
to you ladies
of Gaul...

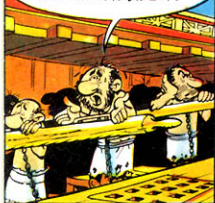
CLICK!
CLACK!
CLUNK!
BONG!



STOP!
MERCY!

WE'D RATHER
HAVE THE WHIP!

OUR WORK ISN'T ALL FUN
AND GAMES, BUT THIS IS
INHUMAN! IF THE GAUL
WILL SHUT UP WE PROMISE
TO ROW OUR HARDEST!



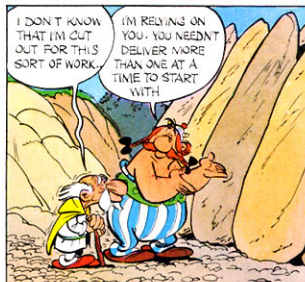
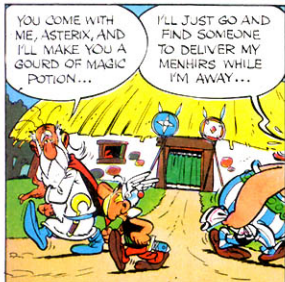
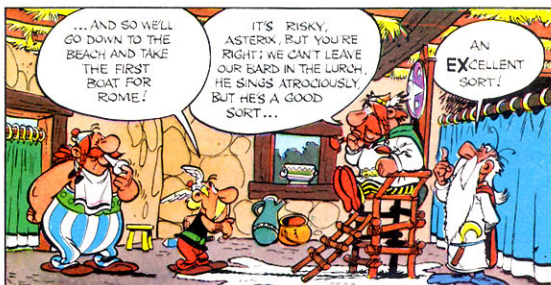
YOU IGNORANT LOT! YOU BRUTES!
YOU'LL ALL END UP IN THE...WELL,
YOU ALREADY HAVE!



BONG!



I'M BEGINNING
TO WONDER IF
CAESAR REALLY DOES
DESERVE THIS...



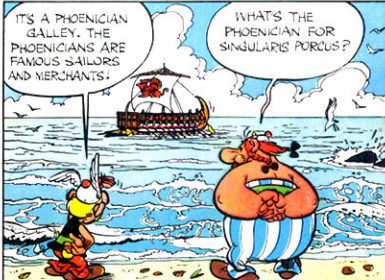


NOW TO STOP THIS SHIP SAILING ALONG THE COAST!

ASTERIX AND OBELIX MAKE THE ANCIENT GAULISH SIGN INDICATING A WISH TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD... NOTE THE FOUR CLENCHED FINGERS AND THE THUMB JERKED IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION. IF YOU WISH TO GO TO ROME THE DIRECTION OF THE THUMB IS IMMATERIAL, SINCE ALL ROADS LEAD THERE

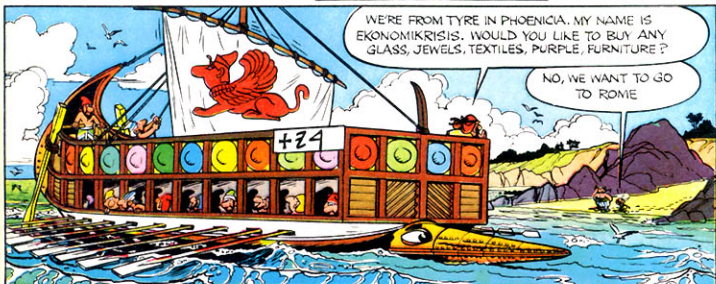


N.B. THIS GESTURE IS STILL EMPLOYED TODAY, THOUGH NOT OFFEN TO STOP SHIPS



IT'S A PHOENICIAN GALLEY. THE PHOENICIANS ARE FAMOUS SAILORS AND MERCHANTS.

WHAT'S THE PHOENICIAN FOR SINGULARIS PORCUS?

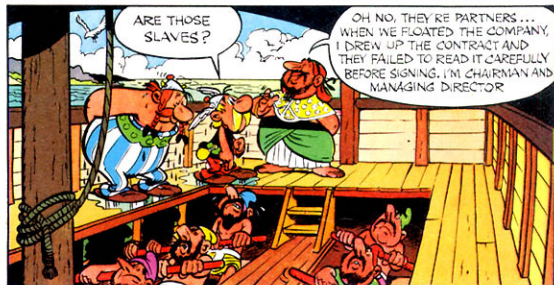
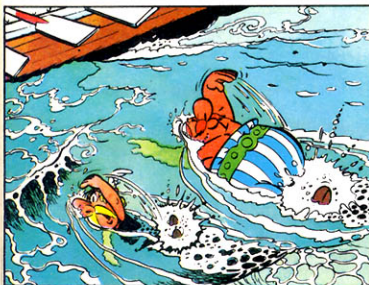


WE'RE FROM TYRE IN PHOENICIA. MY NAME IS EKONOMIKRISIS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ANY GLASS, JEWELS, TEXTILES, PURPLE, FURNITURE?

NO, WE WANT TO GO TO ROME



HM... ER... ALL RIGHT, COME ON BOARD!



ARE THOSE SLAVES?

OH NO, THEY'RE PARTNERS... WHEN WE FLOATED THE COMPANY, I DREW UP THE CONTRACT AND THEY FAILED TO READ IT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. I'M CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

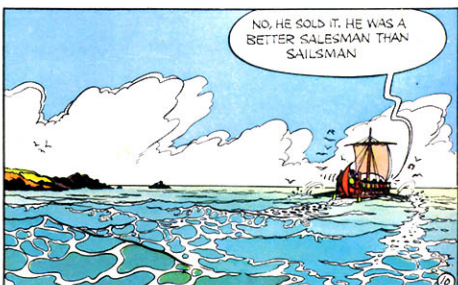


IT'S KIND OF YOU TO TAKE US TO ROME. I HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY?

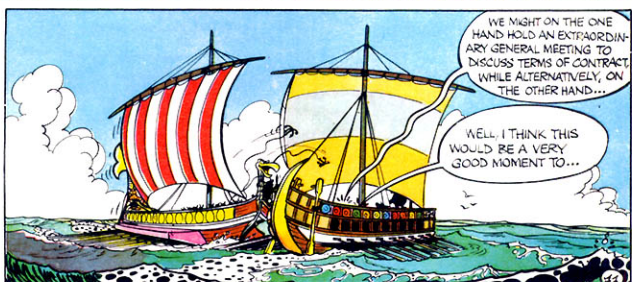
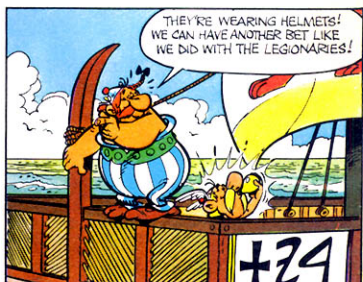
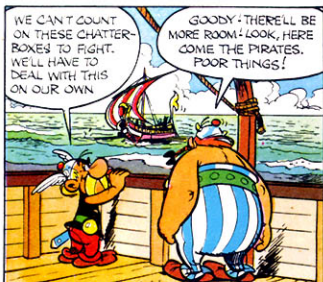
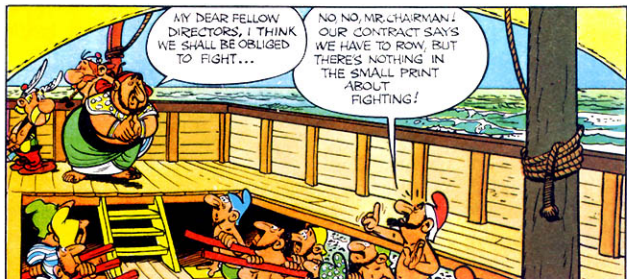
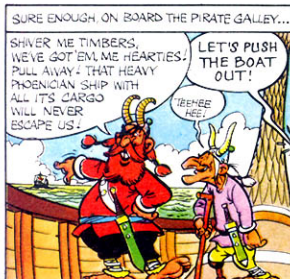
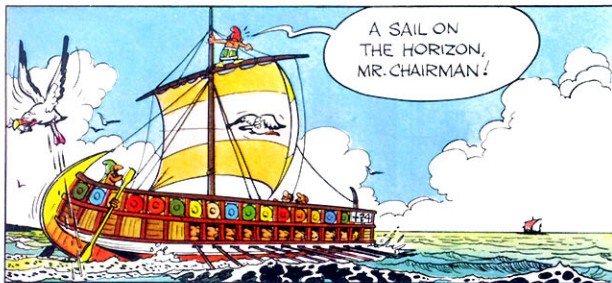
AS IT HAPPENS, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS ABANDONED HIS SHIP THERE...

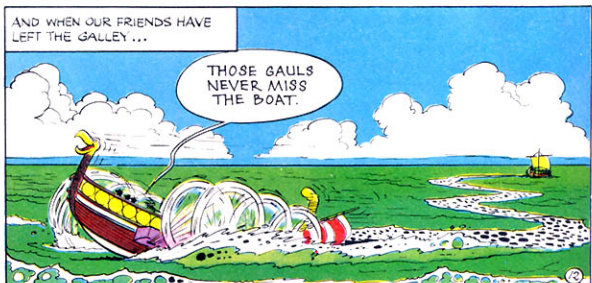
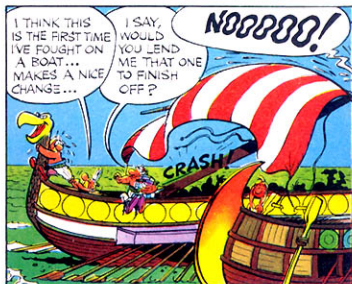
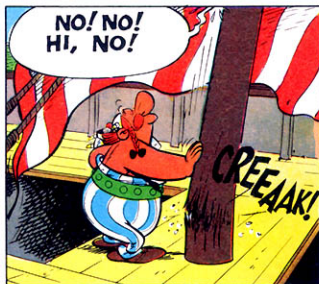
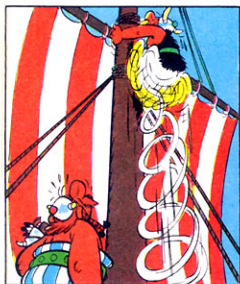
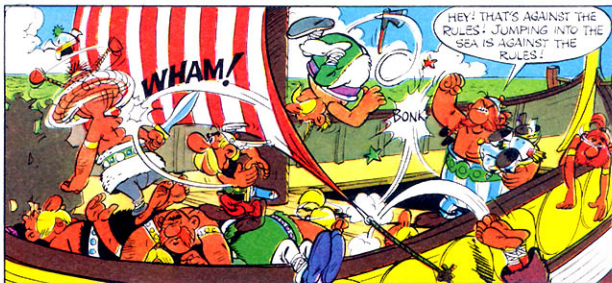
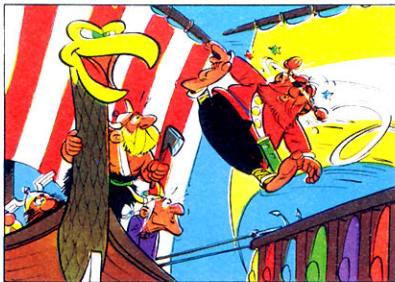
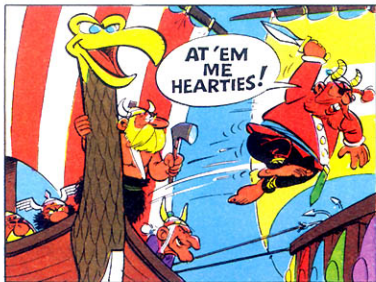


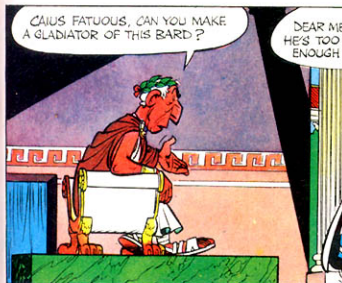
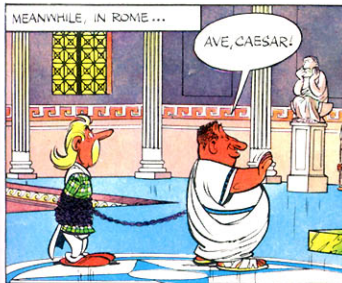
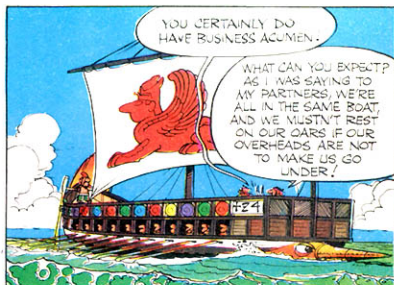
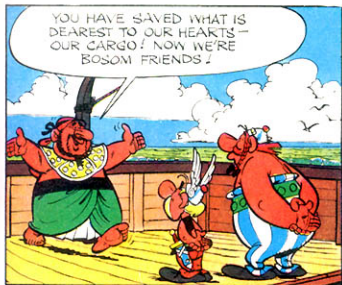
IT SANK?

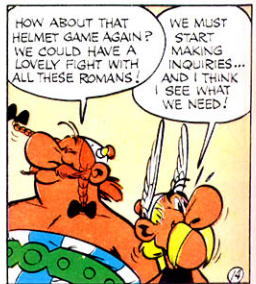
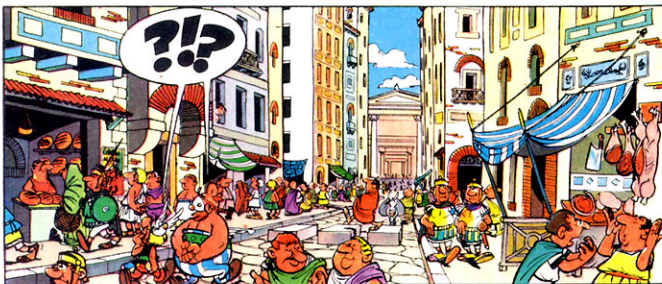
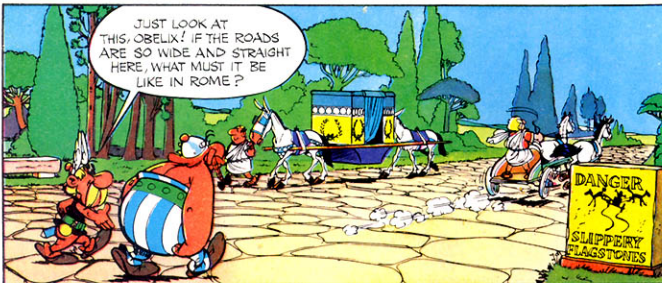
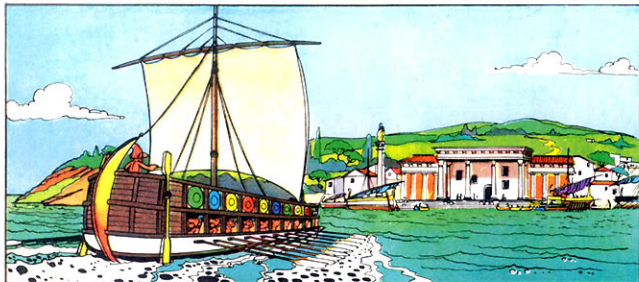


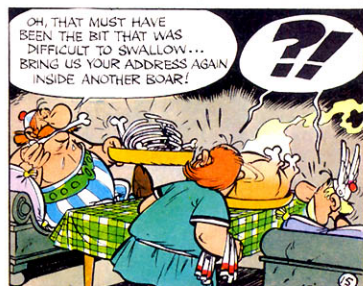
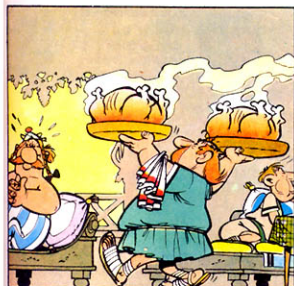
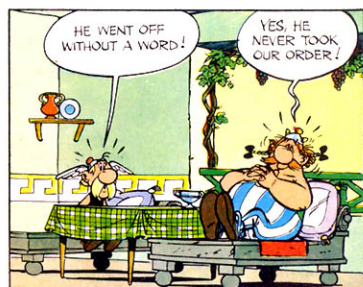
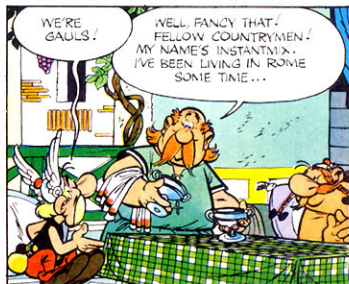
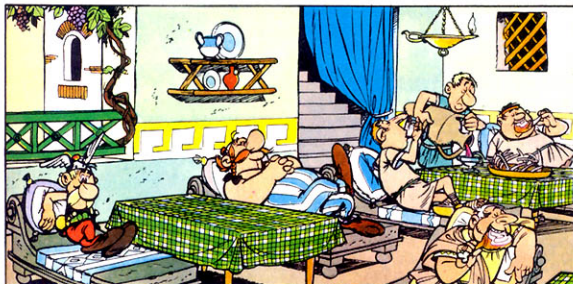
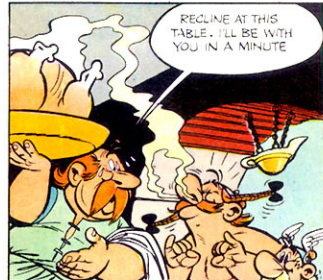
NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A BETTER SALESMAN THAN SAILSMAN

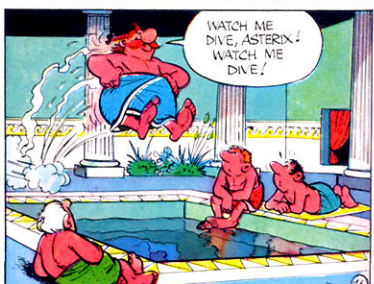
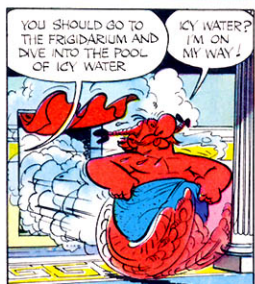
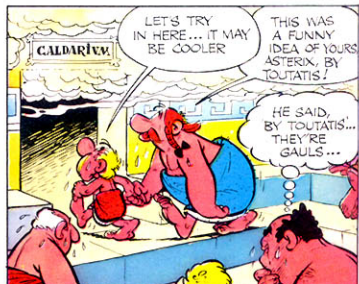
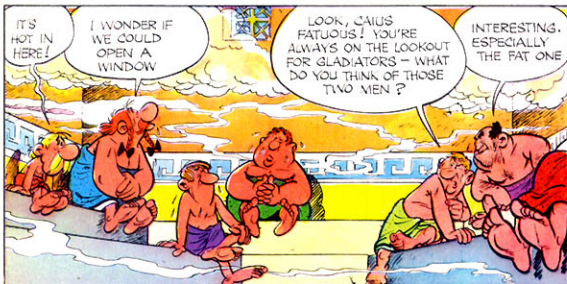
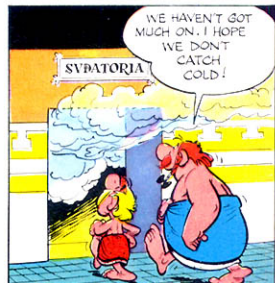
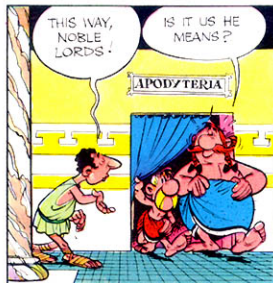
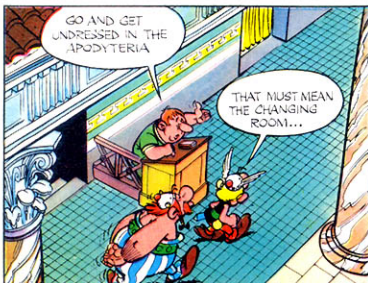
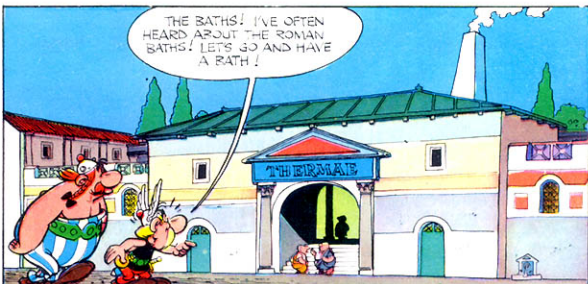


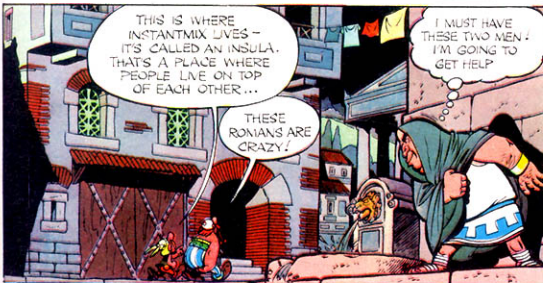
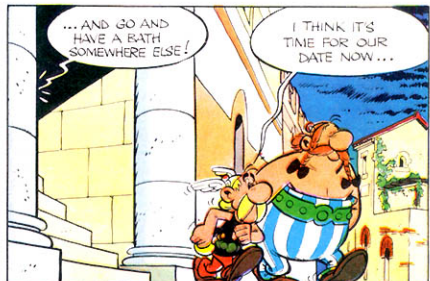
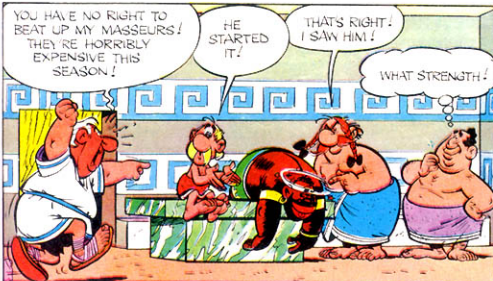
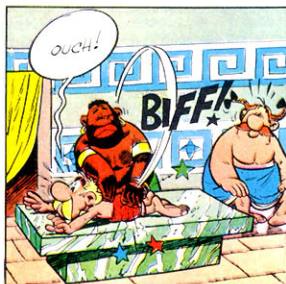
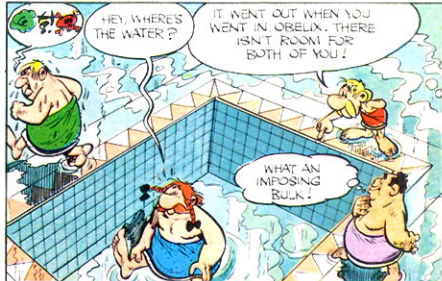


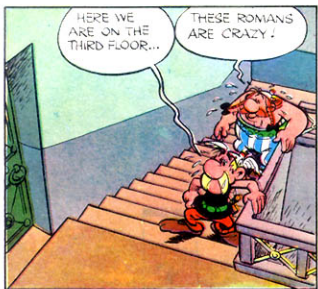










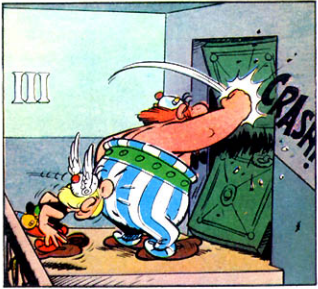


HERE WE ARE ON THE THIRD FLOOR... THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

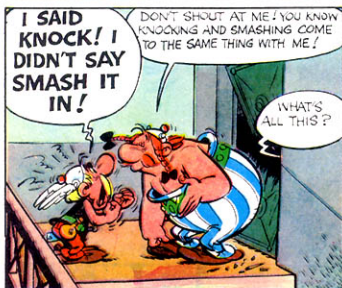


STOP WASTING TIME AND KNOCK AT THIS DOOR!

RIGHT!



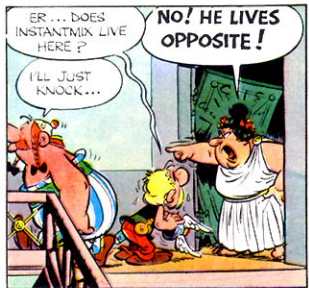
CRASH!



I SAID KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

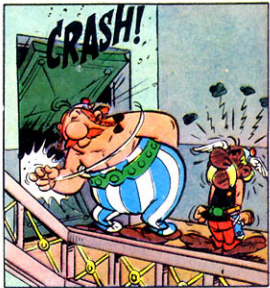
WHAT'S ALL THIS?



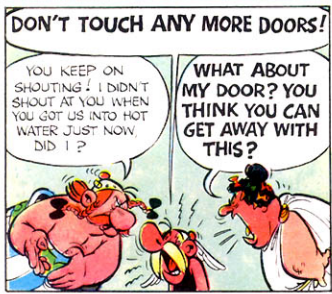
ER ... DOES INSTANTMIX LIVE HERE?

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

I'LL JUST KNOCK...



CRASH!



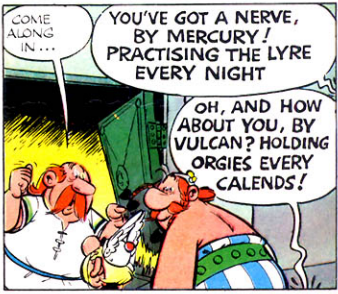
DON'T TOUCH ANY MORE DOORS!

YOU KEEP ON SHOUTING! I DIDN'T SHOUT AT YOU WHEN YOU GOT US INTO HOT WATER JUST NOW, DID I?

WHAT ABOUT MY DOOR? YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?



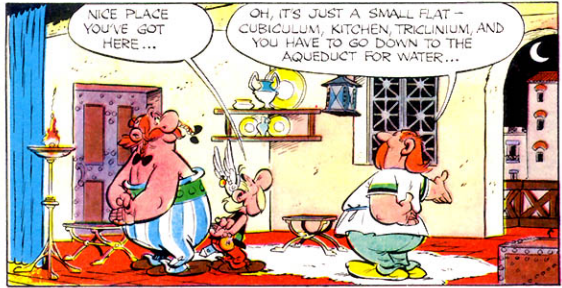
LET'S HAVE A BIT OF PEACE! WE'RE TRYING TO SLEEP, BY JUPITER!



COME ALONG IN ...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALEND'S!



NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE ...

OH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FLAT - CUBICULUM, KITCHEN, TRICLINIUM, AND YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE AQUEDUCT FOR WATER ...

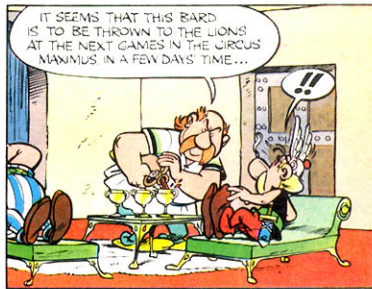


AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS SORT OF PLACE?

OH, THESE ARE GLC FLATS - GREATER LATIN COUNCIL ...



YES, I DID HEAR ABOUT THE BARD THAT THE PREFECT OF GAUL GAVE CAESAR AS A PRESENT...



IT SEEMS THAT THIS BARD IS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS AT THE NEXT GAMES IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS IN A FEW DAYS TIME...

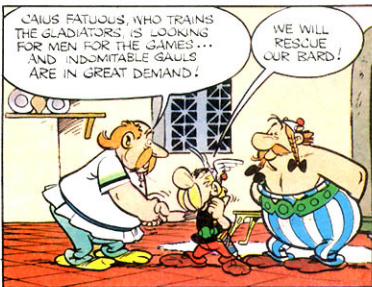


WE'LL RESCUE HIM!

YOU CAN'T, THE BARD'S BEEN SHUT UP IN A CELL IN THE CIRCUS... AND IT'S A MAXIMUM SECURITY CIRCUS!

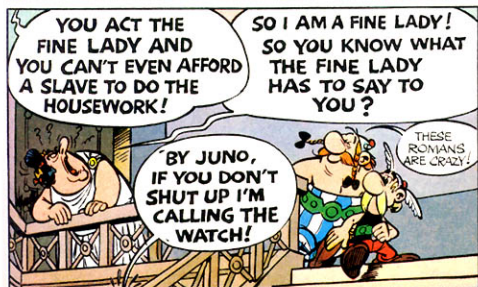


BUT THERE'S WORSE TO COME. THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU TO BE CAREFUL. YOU MUST BE INDOMITABLE GAULS LIKE THE BARD! YOU MUST FLEE FROM ROME!



CAIUS FATUOUS, WHO TRAINS THE GLADIATORS, IS LOOKING FOR MEN FOR THE GAMES... AND INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND!

WE WILL RESCUE OUR BARD!



YOU ACT THE FINE LADY AND YOU CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SLAVE TO DO THE HOUSEWORK!

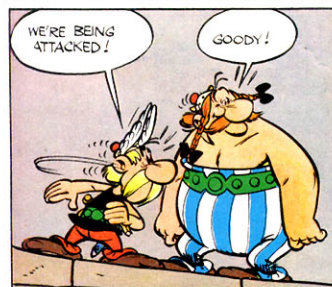
SO I AM A FINE LADY! SO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FINE LADY HAS TO SAY TO YOU?

BY JUNO, IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M CALLING THE WATCH!

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

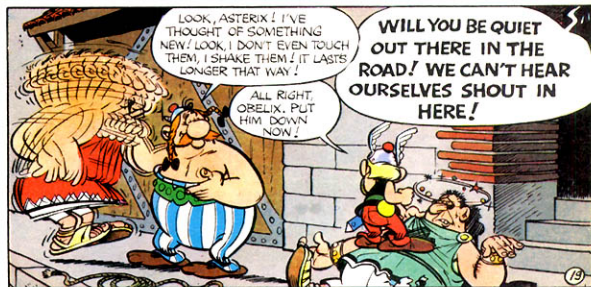


THERE THEY ARE!



WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

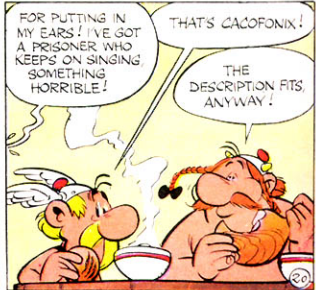
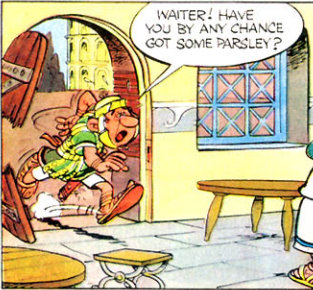
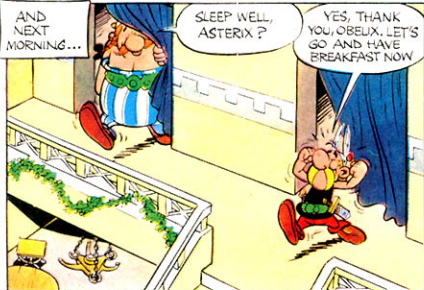
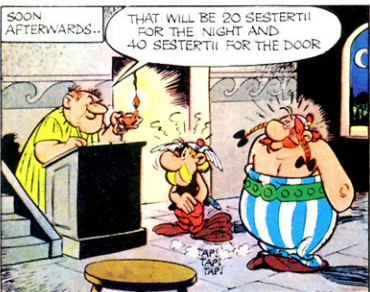
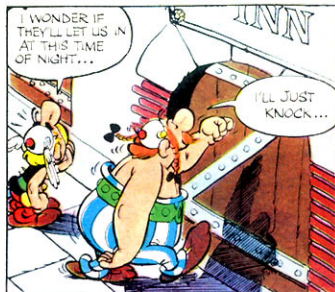
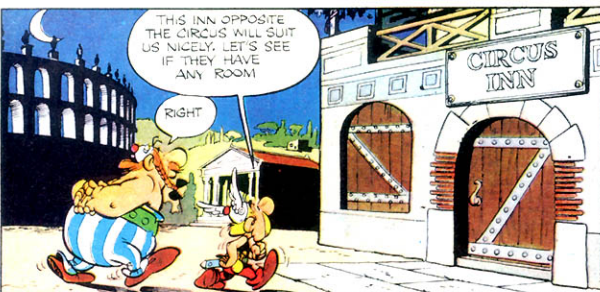
GOODY!

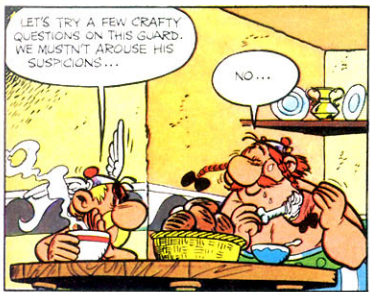


LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING NEW! LOOK, I DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM, I SHAKE THEM! IT LASTS LONGER THAT WAY!

ALL RIGHT ORELIX, PUT HIM DOWN NOW!

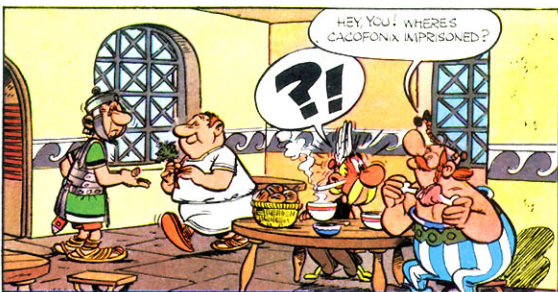
WILL YOU BE QUIET OUT THERE IN THE ROAD! WE CAN'T HEAR OURSELVES SHOUT IN HERE!





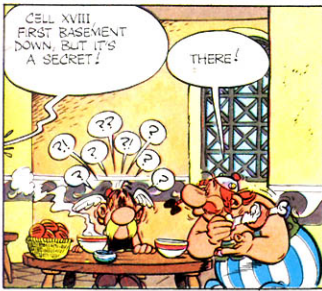
LET'S TRY A FEW CRAFTY QUESTIONS ON THIS GUARD. WE MUSTN'T AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS...

NO...



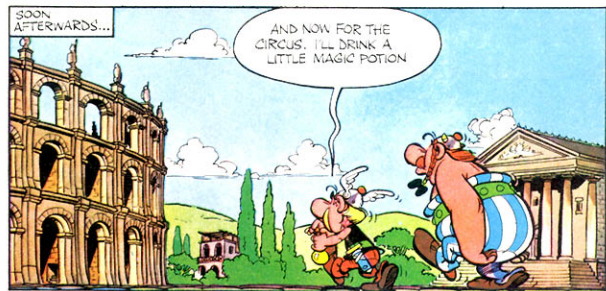
HEY YOU! WHERE'S CACOFONIX IMPRISONED?

?!



CELL XVIII FIRST BASEMENT DOWN, BUT IT'S A SECRET!

THERE!



SOON AFTERSWARDS...

AND NOW FOR THE CIRCUS. I'LL DRINK A LITTLE MAGIC POTION



HERE'S MY PLAN- WE KNOCK DOWN EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING UNTIL WE FIND CACOFONIX AND THEN WE MAKE OFF WITH HIM!

THAT'S A CLEVER PLAN!



HALT!
NO...



ENTRY!



CELL XV...
CELL XVI...
CELL XVII... WE'RE GETTING WARM!

OUR BET ABOUT THE HELMETS IS STILL ON, ISN'T IT?



CELL XVIII IS EMPTY!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

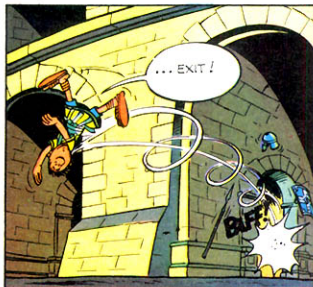
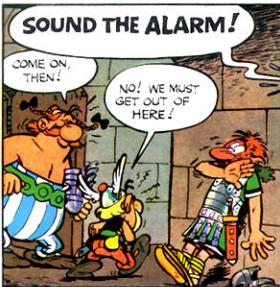
WHERE'S THE BARD, GUARD?
THEY CHANGED HIS CELL... HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE THIRD BASEMENT DOWN. NO ONE COULD BEAR TO HEAR HIM ANY MORE. PLEASE WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP HITTING!



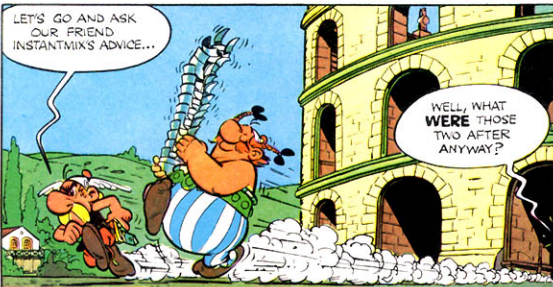
SOUND THE ALARM!

COME ON, THEN!

NO! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!



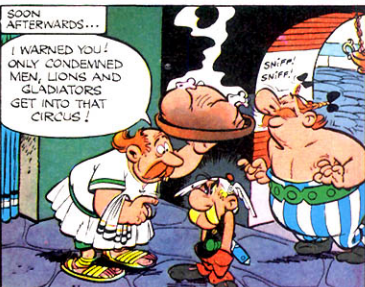
LET'S GO AND ASK OUR FRIEND INSTANTMIX'S ADVICE...



SOON AFTERWARDS...

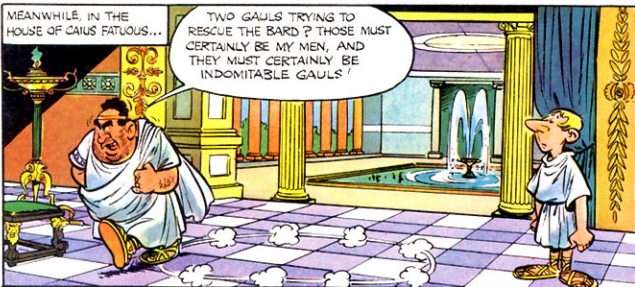
I WARNED YOU! ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THAT CIRCUS!

SHIFF! SHIFF!

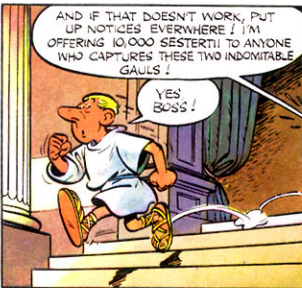


MEANWHILE IN THE HOUSE OF CAIUS FATUOUS...

TWO GAULS TRYING TO RESCUE THE BARD? THOSE MUST CERTAINLY BE MY MEN, AND THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE INDOMITABLE GAULS!

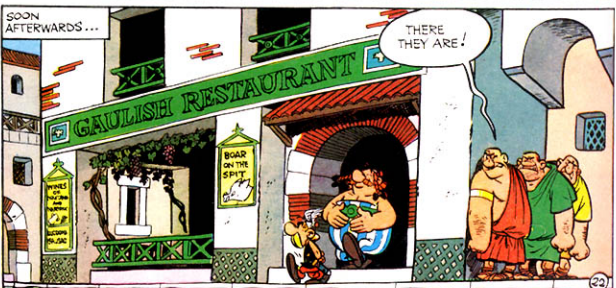


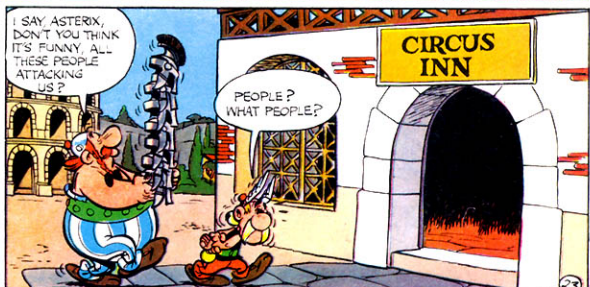
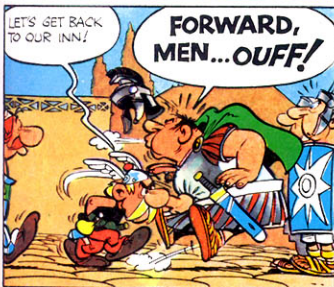
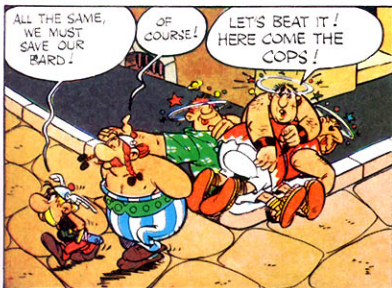
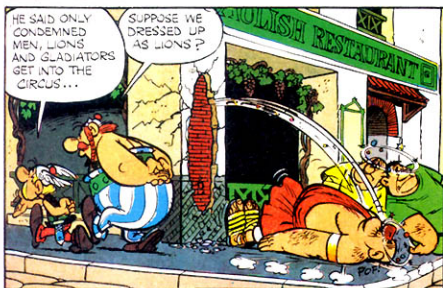
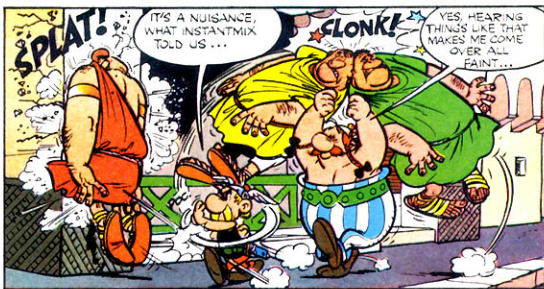
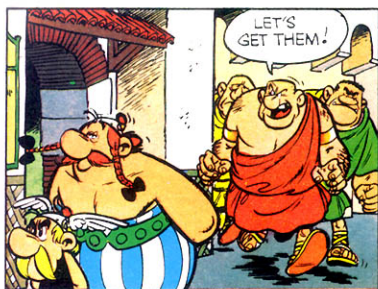
YES BOSS!

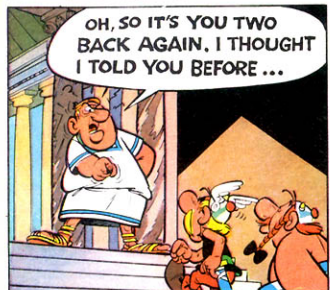
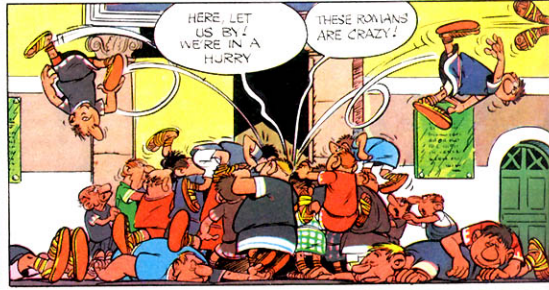
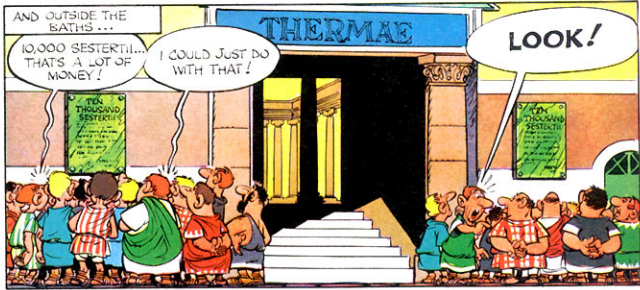
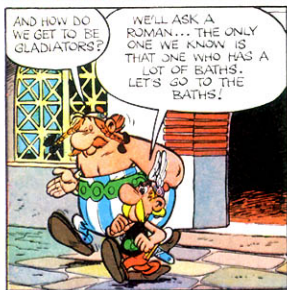


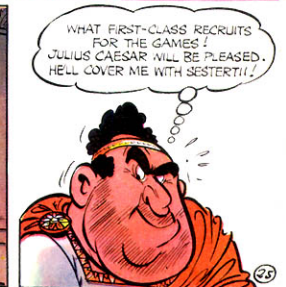
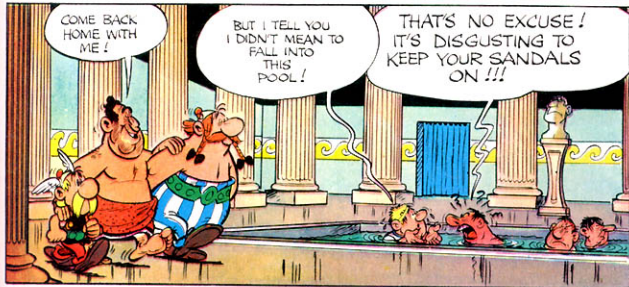
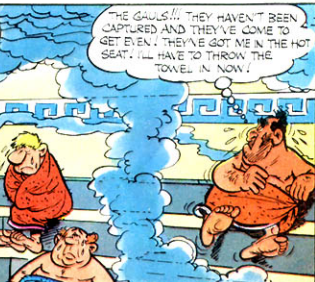
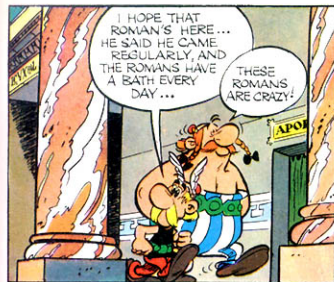
SOON AFTERWARDS...

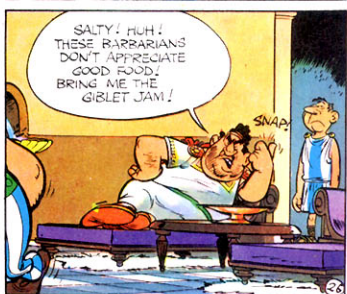
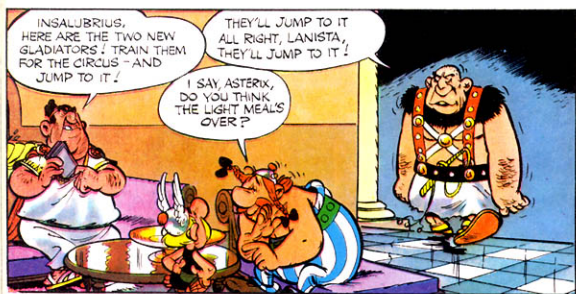
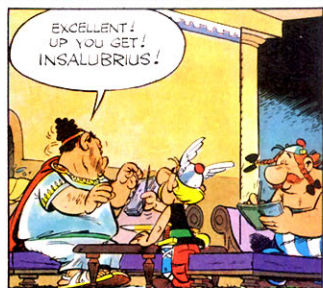
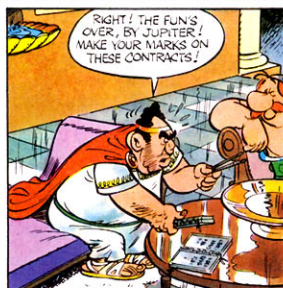
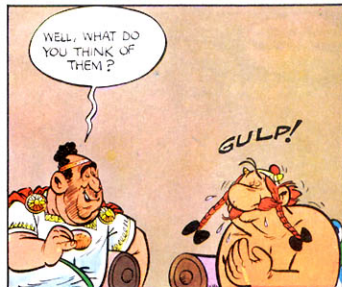
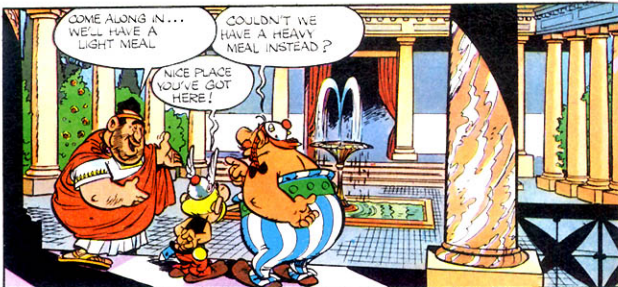
THERE THEY ARE!

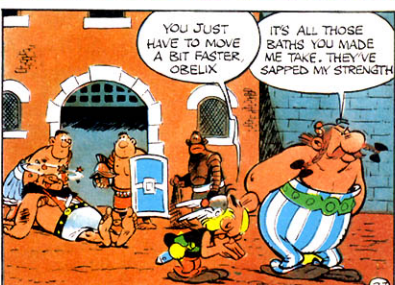
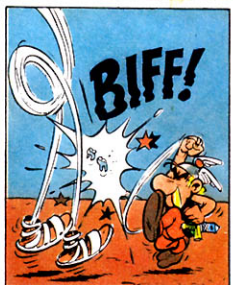
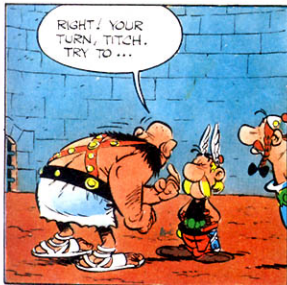
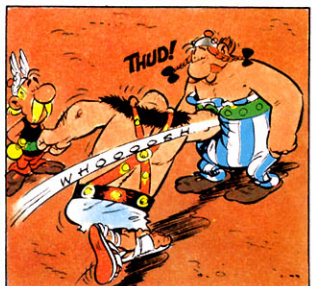
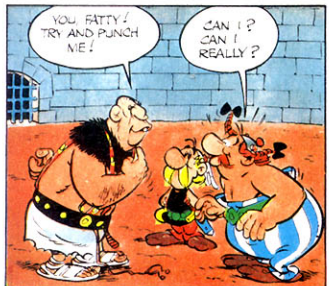
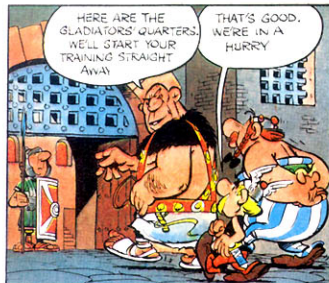


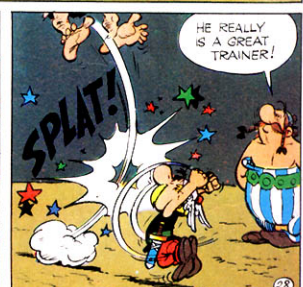
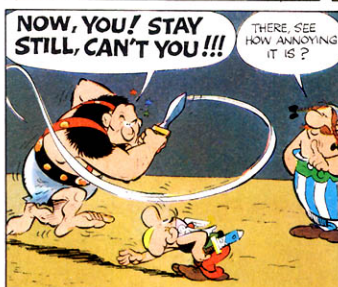
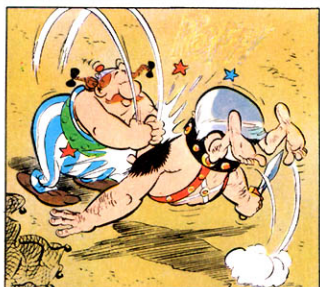
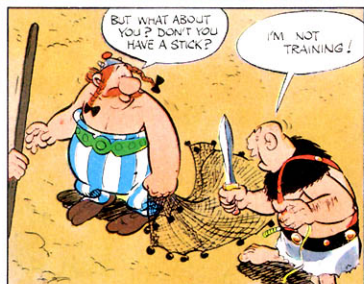
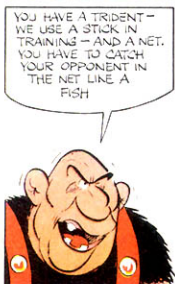
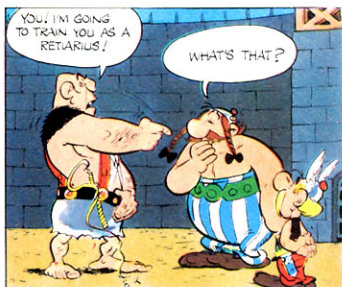
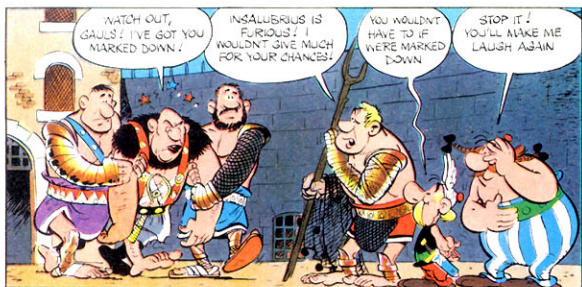


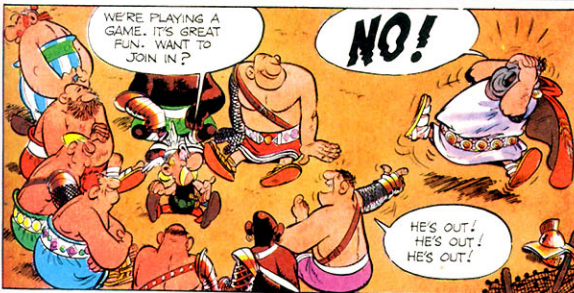
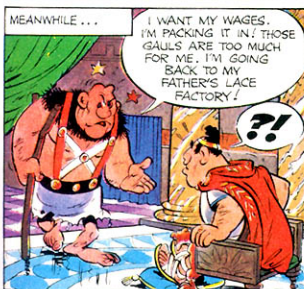
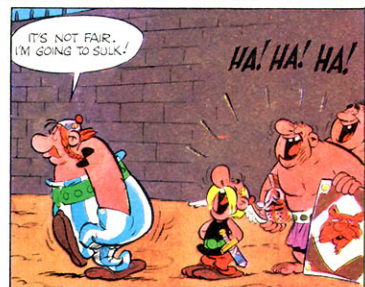
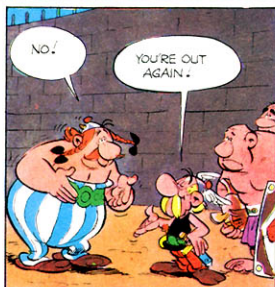
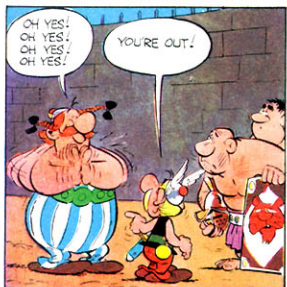
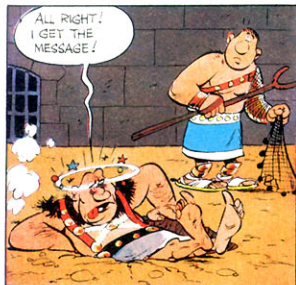


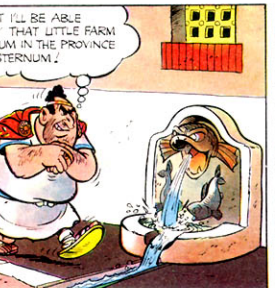
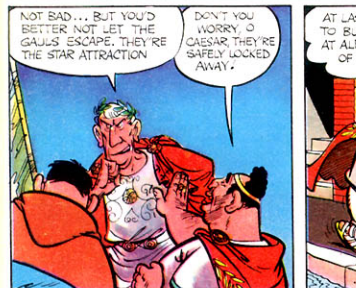
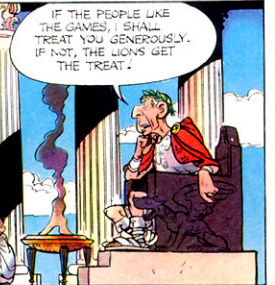
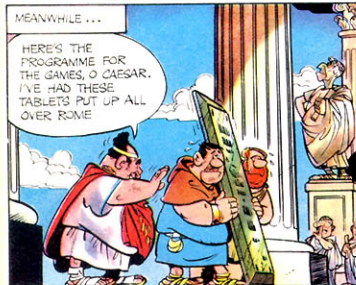
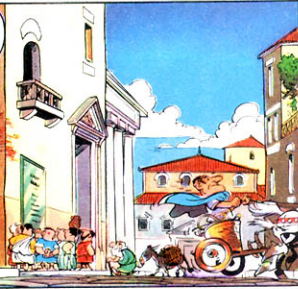
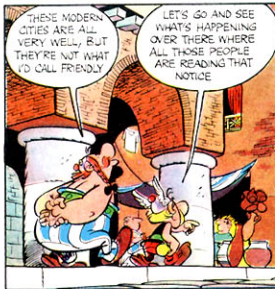
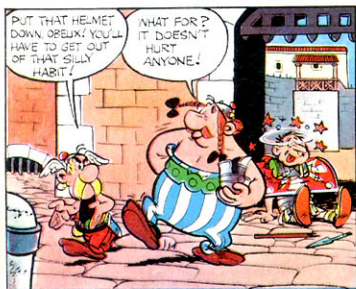
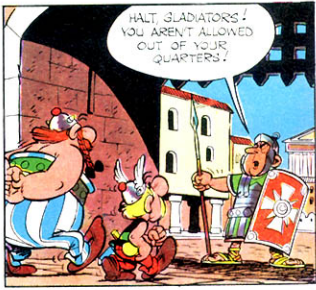
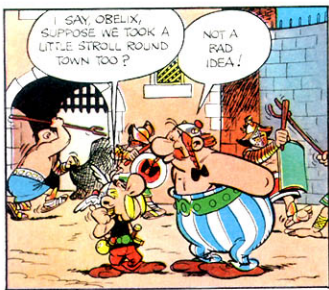


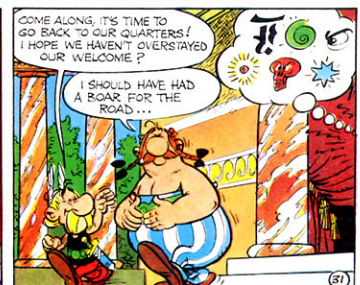
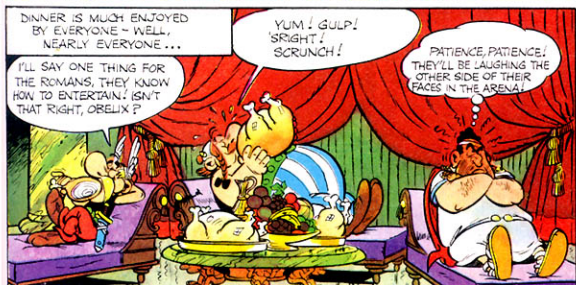
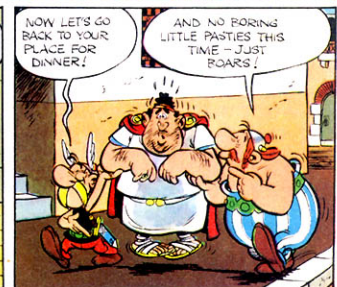
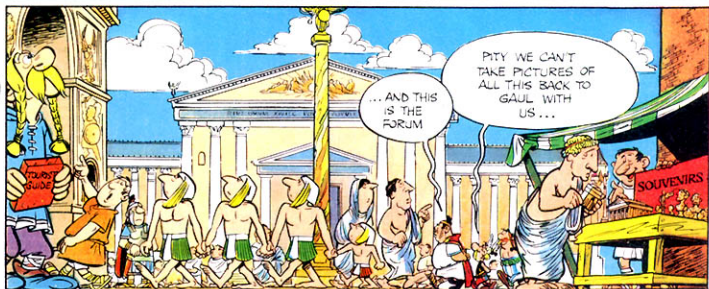
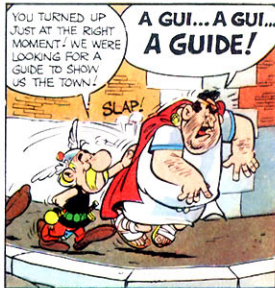
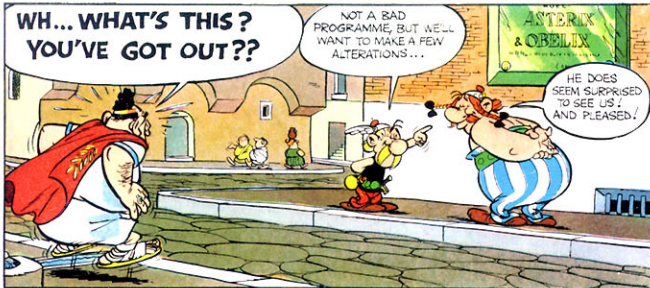




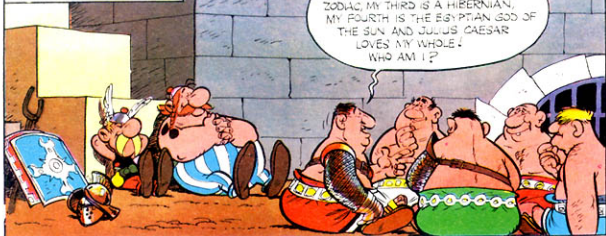




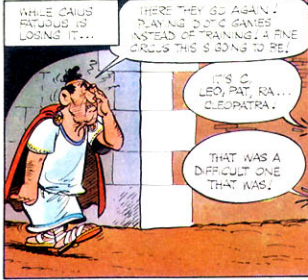




TIME PASSES BY AND THE GLADIATORS ARE PUTTING ON WEIGHT...



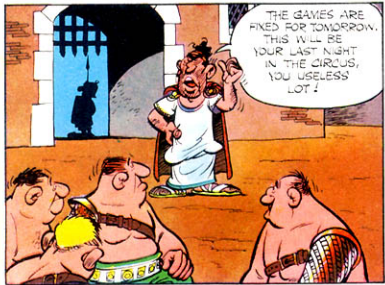
MY FIRST IS A HUNDRED
MY SECOND IS A SIGN OF THE
ZODIAC MY THIRD IS A HIBERNIAN.
MY FOURTH IS THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF
THE SUN AND JULIUS CAESAR
LOVES MY WHOLE!
WHO AM I?



HERE THEY GO AGAIN!
I'D RATHER PLAY NINE DOTS' GAMES
INSTEAD OF TRAINING. I WINE
GRUES THIS S'S GOING TO BE!

IT'S C
LEO, PAT, RA...
CLEOPATRA.

THAT WAS A
DIFFICULT ONE
THAT WAS.

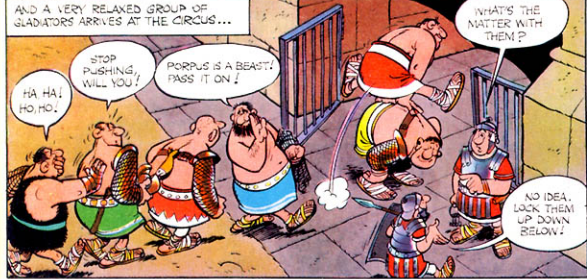


THE GAMES ARE
FIXED FOR TOMORROW.
THIS WILL BE
YOUR LAST NIGHT
IN THE CIRCUS.
YOU USELESS
LOT!



WE DON'T REALLY
WANT TO FIGHT
ANY MORE,
ASTERIX.

DON'T WORRY! I PROMISE YOU I WON'T
HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIVES
IN THE ARENA!



AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP OF
GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...

STOP
PUSHING
WILL YOU!

HA HA!
HO HO.

PORRUS IS A BEAST!
PASS IT ON!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH
THEM?

NO IDEA,
LOOK THEM
UP DOWN
BELOW!



PORTER, WE WANT
TO SEE OUR FRIEND
CASORONN THE
BARD

I'M NOT A
PORTER
AND YOU
CAN'T!



VERY WELL
THEN, WE SHALL
TEAR OUT THESE
BARS ONE BY
ONE UNTIL
YOU
CO-OPERATE!

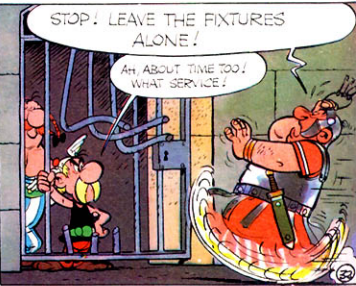
GO AHEAD
AND
TRY!



PLINNNK!

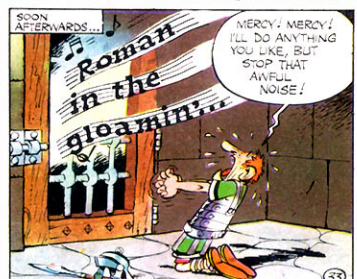
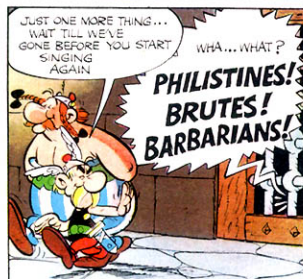
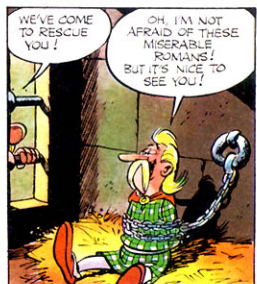
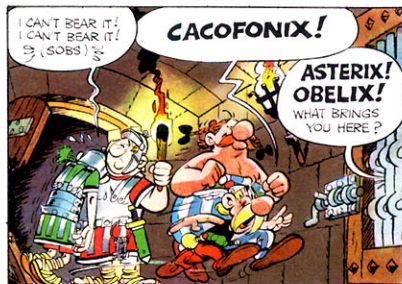
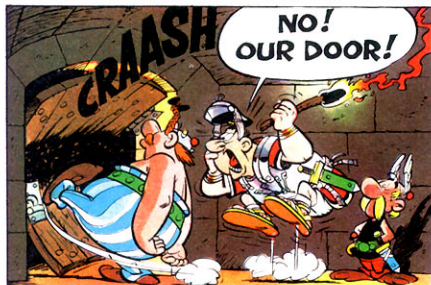
PLONNNK!

PLUNNNK!



STOP! LEAVE THE FIXTURES
ALONE!

AH, ABOUT TIME TOO!
WHAT SERVICE!



A HUGE CROWD IS FORMING OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS...

WASH YOUR TOGAS IN SUPER PERSIC! SUPER PERSIC WASHES EVEN PURPLER!

SCORE CARD! SCORE CARD!

CUSHIONS! CUSHIONS!

CHIPOLATAE! CANES CALIDI! CHIPOLATAE!

AND INSIDE THE IMPOSING ARENA THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF CAESAR IN THE IMPERIAL BOX...

TANTAN TARA!!!!

PANEM ET CIRCEGNOS

LONG LIVE CAESAR!

CAESAR FOR EVER!

EVERYONE APPLAUDS THE DICTATOR...

CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

ET TU BRUTE!

CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

YOU TOO, BRUTUS!

THAT BRUTUS... I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH HIM!

CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

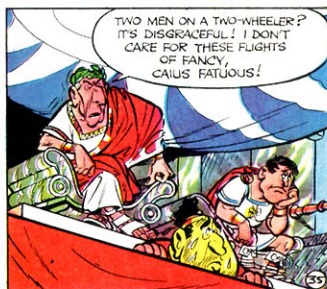
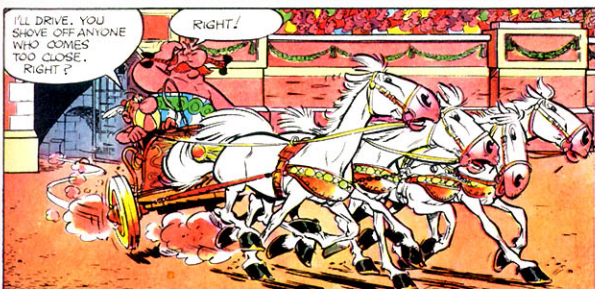
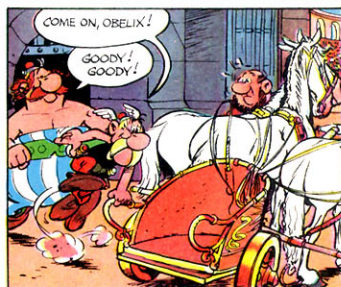
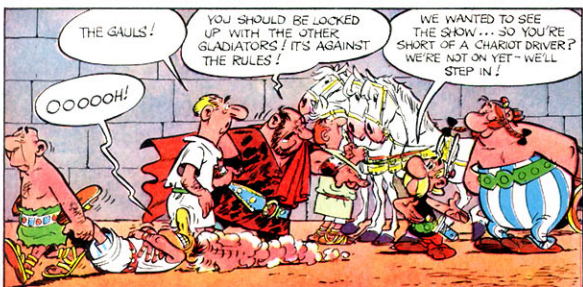
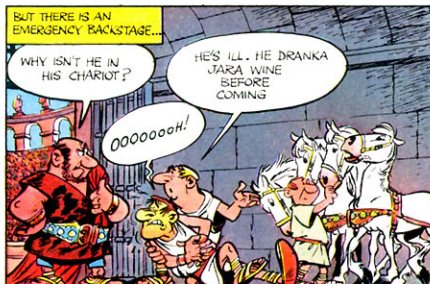
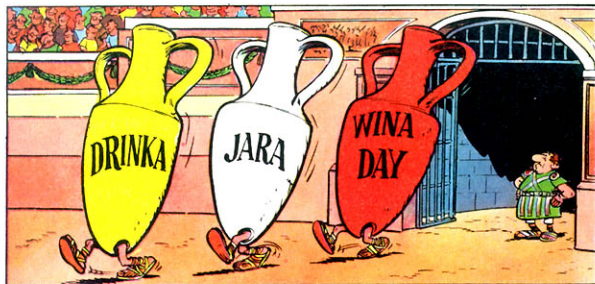
* AN EXAMINATION OF ACT III, SCENE I OF JULIUS CAESAR BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WILL INDICATE THE PROPHETIC NATURE OF THIS REMARK

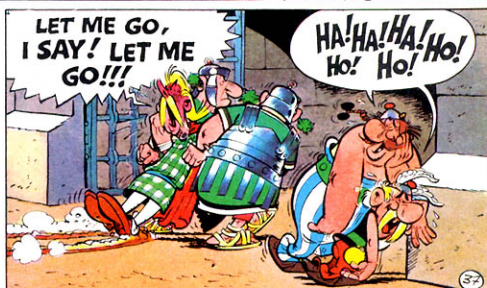
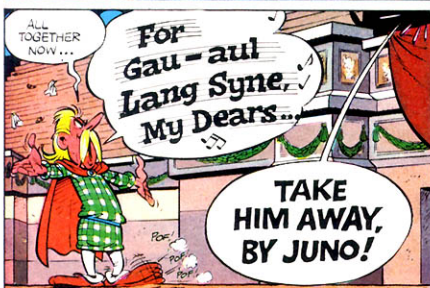
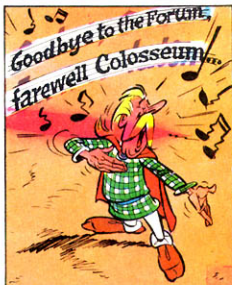
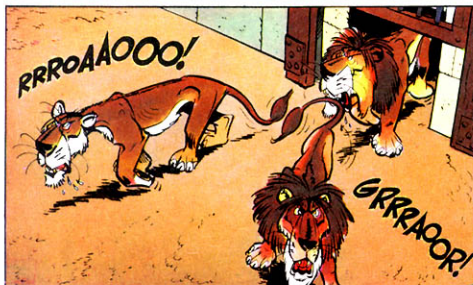
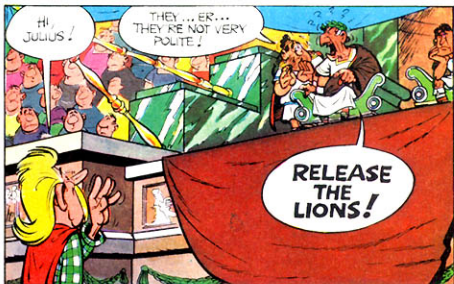
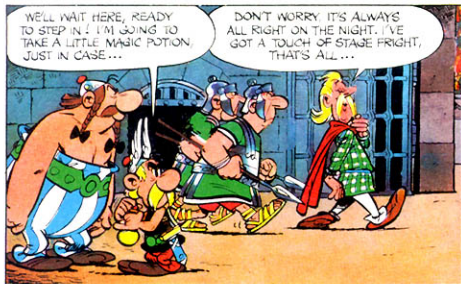
THIS WILL BE A GREAT SHOW, O CAESAR!

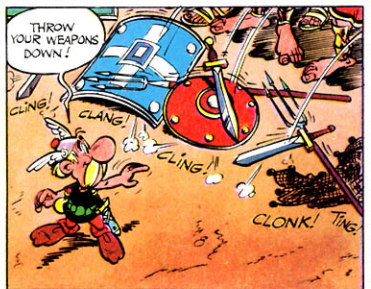
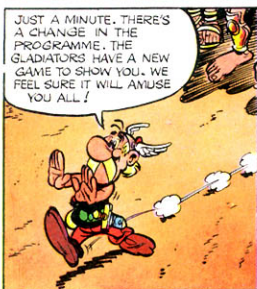
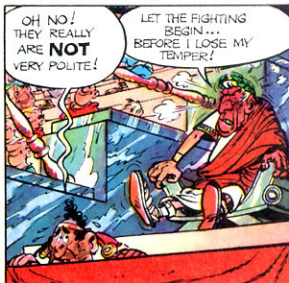
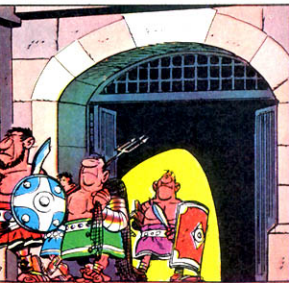
I HOPE SO, CAIUS FATIUS. IF NOT, YOU'LL BE IN ON THE ACT

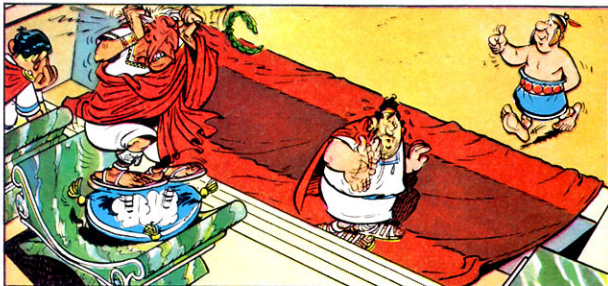
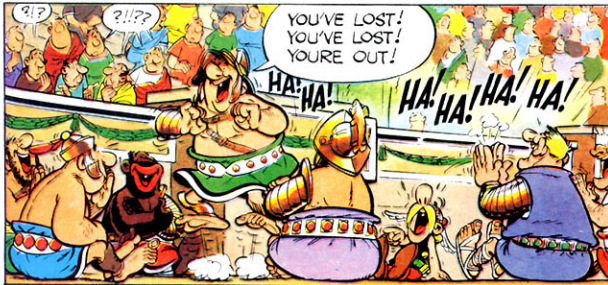
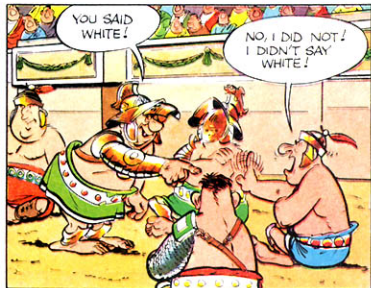
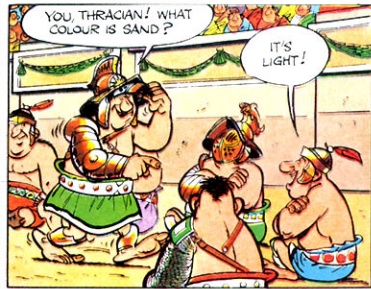
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

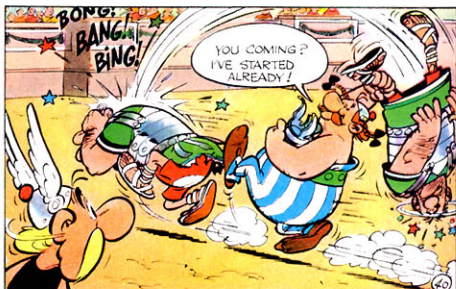
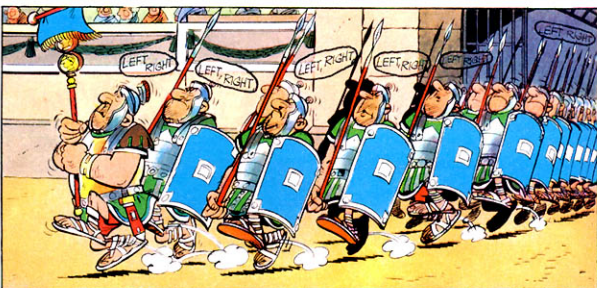
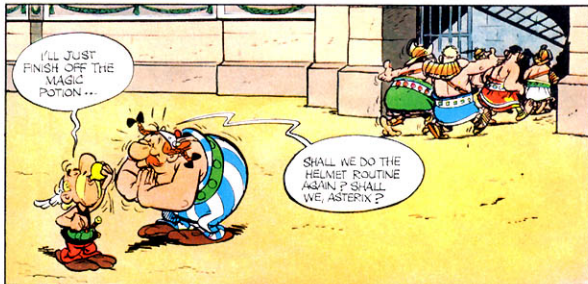
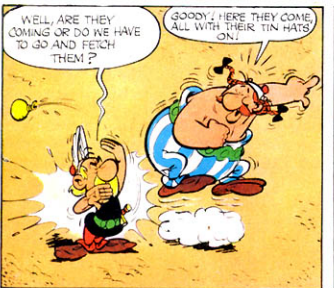
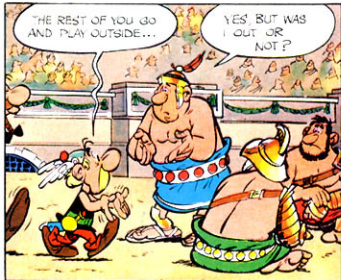
GULP!

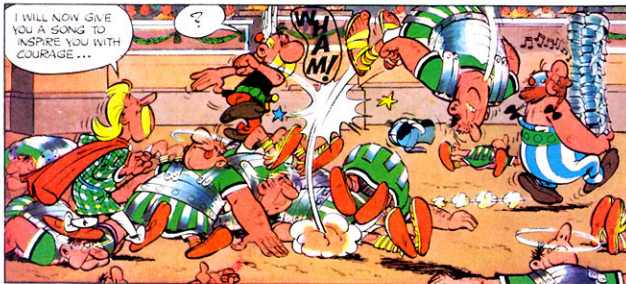
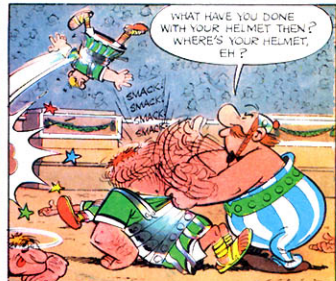
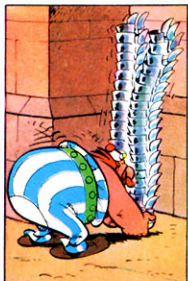




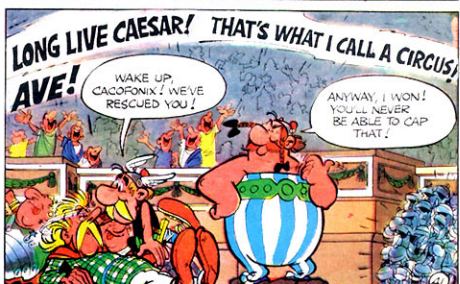






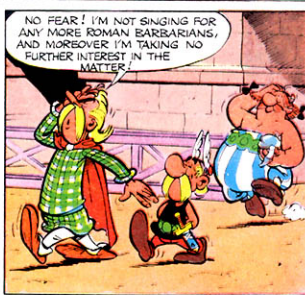
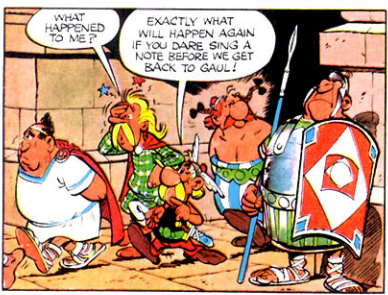
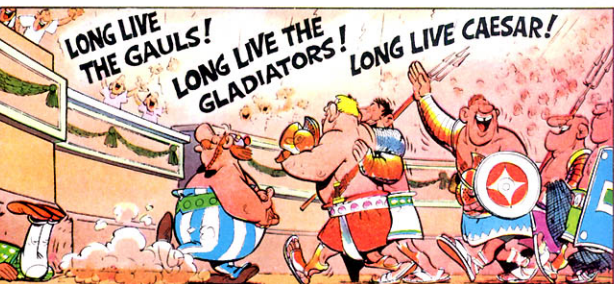
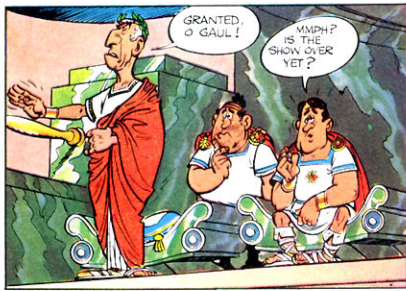
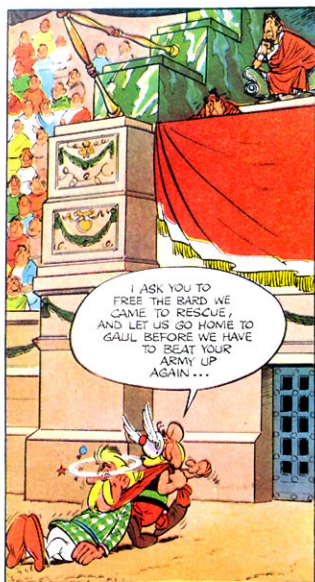


GAULS, YOU ARE BRAVE MEN, AND I SHOULD KNOW! I DECLARE YOU THE WINNERS, AND AS YOU HAVE MANAGED TO ENTERTAIN MY PEOPLE, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK. SUCH IS THE GENEROSITY OF CAESAR!



WAKE UP, CACOFONIX! WE'VE RESCUED YOU!

ANYWAY, I WON! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CAP THAT!

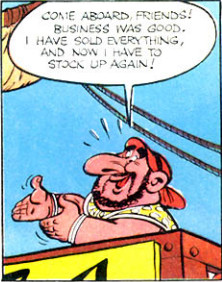


AND AFTER A FEW HOURS' WALK...

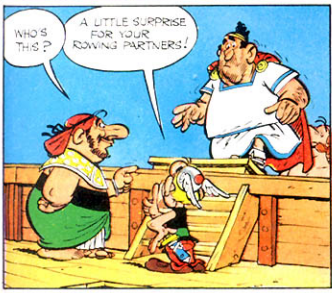


O EKONOMIKSIS PHOENICIAN MERCHANT, WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND TAKE US BACK TO GAUL?

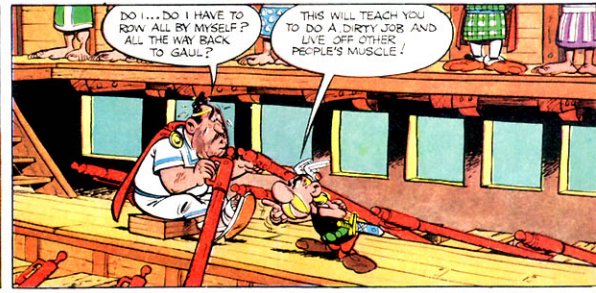
MY OLD FRIENDS! THE GAULS!!!



COME ABOARD FRIENDS! BUSINESS WAS GOOD. I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING, AND NOW I HAVE TO STOCK UP AGAIN!

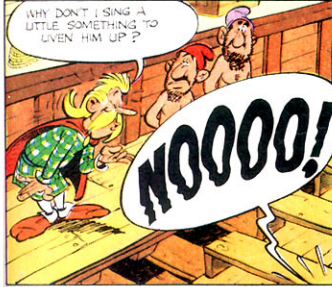


WHO'S THIS?
A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOUR ROWING PARTNERS!



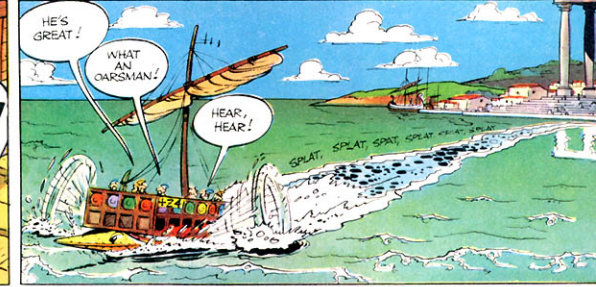
DO I... DO I HAVE TO ROW ALL BY MYSELF? ALL THE WAY BACK TO GAUL?

THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO DO A DIRTY JOB AND LIVE OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSCLE!



WHY DON'T I SING A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LIVEN HIM UP?

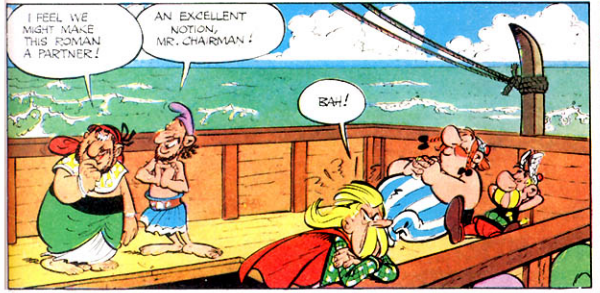
NOOOOO!



HE'S GREAT!

WHAT AN OARSMAN!

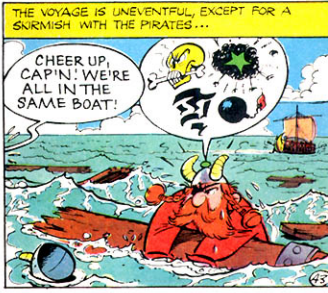
HEAR, HEAR!



I FEEL WE MIGHT MAKE THIS ROMAN A PARTNER!

AN EXCELLENT NOTION, MR. CHARMAN!

BAH!

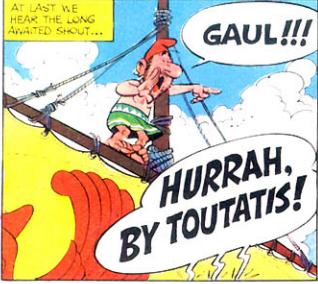


THE VOYAGE IS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A SKIRMISH WITH THE PIRATES...

CHEER UP, CAP'N! WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!

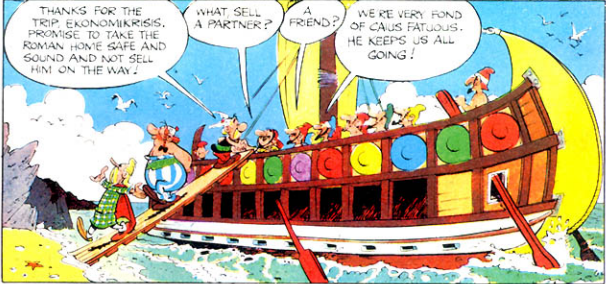


AT LAST WE HEAR THE LONG AWAITED SHOUT...



GAUL!!!

HURRAH, BY TOUTATIS!

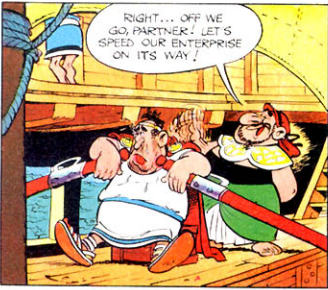


THANKS FOR THE TRIP, EKONOMIKRISIS. PROMISE TO TAKE THE ROMAN HOME SAFE AND SOUND AND NOT SELL HIM ON THE WAY.

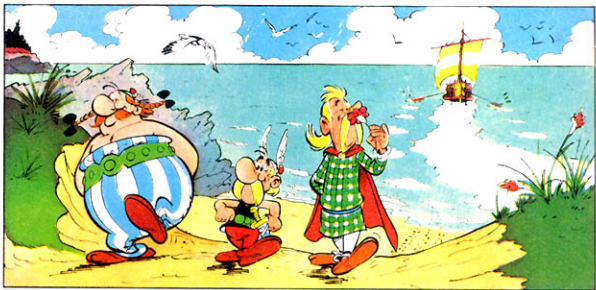
WHAT SELL A PARTNER?

A FRIEND?

WE'RE VERY FOND OF CAULS FATIGOUS. HE KEEPS US ALL GOING!



RIGHT... OFF WE GO, PARTNER! LET'S SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE ON ITS WAY!



THE GAULLISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A GREAT FEAST... AND BUT FOR THE FACT THAT CACORONIX WAS THE INVOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE GIVEN THEM A SONG...



the end

Uderzo & Scazzony 44